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SECOND APPROACH OF COR- TES TO THE CITY OF MEXICO

BY DR. BIRD.

Passing the night in a little hamlet on the mountain side, the army was prepared, at the dawn of the following day, to resume its march. But the events of this march being varied by nothing but the change of prospect, and the wonder of those by whom the valley was seen for the first time, we will not imitate the prolixity of our authority, the worthy Dr. Cristobal, but despatch, in a word, the increasing delight and astonishment with which Don Amador de Leste, after having satiated his appetite with views of lake and garden, surveyed the countless villages and towns of hewn stone that rose, almost at every moment, among them. A neck of land now separates the lakes of Chalco and Xochimilco; and the retreat of the waters has left their banks deformed with fens and morasses, wherein the wild duck screams among waving reeds and bulrushes. Originally, these basins were united in one long and lovely sheet of water, divided indeed, yet only by a causeway built by the hands of man, which is now lost in the before mentioned neck, together with its sluices and bridges, as well as a beautiful little city, that lay midway between the two shores, called by the Spaniards Venezuela, (because rising, like its aristocratic godmother, from among the waters,) until they discovered that this was a peculiarity presented by dozens of other cities in the valley. Here was enjoyed the spectacle of innumerable canoes, paddled, with oars and merchandize, from distant towns, or parting with a freight of flowers from the *chinampas*, or floating gardens. But this was a spectacle disclosed by other cities of greater magnitude and beauty; and when, from the streets of the royal city of Iztapalapan, the army issued at once upon the broad and straight dike that stretched for more than two leagues in length, a noble highway, through the salt floods of Tezcuco; when the neophyte beheld islands rocking like anchored ships in the water, the face of the lake thronged with little piraguas, and the air alive with snowy gulls, when he perceived the banks of this great sheet as far as could be seen, lined with villages and towns; and especially when he traced far away in the distance, in the line of the causeway, such a multitude of high towers and shadowy pyramids coming over the waters, as denoted the presence of a vast city—he was seized with a species of awe at the thought of the marvellous ways of God, who had raised up that mighty empire, all unknown to the men of his own hemisphere, and now revealed it, for the accomplishment of a destiny which he trembled to imagine. He rode at the head of the army, in a host of distinction, by the side of Cortes; and felt moved to express some of the strange ideas which haunted him: but looking on the general attentively, he perceived about his whole countenance and figure an expression of singular gloom, mingled with such unusual haughtiness, as quickly indisposed him to conversation.

The feelings that struggled in the bosom of the conqueror were, at this instant, akin to those of the destroyer as he sat upon the Asyrian mount, overlooking the walls of Paradise, all most lamenting, and yet excusing to himself, the ruin he was about to bring on that heavenly scene. Perhaps 'horror and doubt' for a moment distracted his thoughts, for no one knew better than he the uncertain chances and tremendous perils of the enterprise, or moved with more fear upon the probable and most sanguinary resistance of his victims, as foreboded by the tumults that followed after the late massacre. But when he cast his eye backward on the causeway, and beheld the long train of foot and horse following at his back; the many cannons, which, as they were dragged along, opened their brazen throats towards the city, the rows of spears and arquebuses bristling, and the banners flapping, over the heads of his people, and behind him the feathered tufts of his Tlascalan; and heard the music of his trumpets swell from the dike to the lake, from the lake to the shores, and die away, with pleasant echoes, among the hills, when he surveyed and listened to these things, and contrasted with them the imperfect weapons and naked bodies of his adversaries: the weakness of their institutions, the feebleness of their princes; the general disorganization of the people, and counted the guerdon of wealth and immortal renown that should wait upon success; he stifled at once his apprehensions and his remorse, ceased to remember that those whose destruction

he meditated, were, to him, 'harmless innocence,' and satisfied himself, almost with the arguments of the fiend, that—

Public reason just, Honor and empire, with revenge enlarged, By conquering this new world, compels me now To do what else, though damn'd I should abhor.

Triumph and regret were at once dividing his bosom; he knew he was a destroyer, but felt he should be a conqueror.

There were many things in Don Hernan, which, notwithstanding the gratitude and the desires of the neophyte, prevented the latter from bestowing upon him so much affection as he gave to one or two of his followers. The spirit of the leader was wholly, and, for his station, necessarily, crafty; and this very quality raised up a wall between him and one who was of so honorable a nature that he knew no concealment. The whole schemes and aims of the general were based upon such a foundation of fraud and injustice, that, he well knew, he could not, without expecting constant and vexatious oppositions, give his full confidence to any truly noble spirit; and the same wisdom that estranged him from the lofty, taught him to keep aloof from the base. While artful enough to make use of the good qualities of the one, and the bad principles of the other class, he was satisfied with their respect: he cared not for their friendship. It was enough to him, that he had zealous and obedient followers: his situation allowed him no friends; and he had none. Of all the valiant cavaliers who shared with him the perils and the rewards of the invasion, there was not one who, after peace had severed the bonds of companionship, did not at the first frown of fortune, or the first invitation of self interest, array himself in arms against his leader.

At a time when the attention of the observers of nature is more than usually called to meteoric phenomena, the following account of the observation of shooting stars, made by Sir John Herschel, at the Cape of Good Hope, last November, is not without interest. It is taken from the London Athenaeum of February 27th.

Annual Meteoric Phenomenon.

Our Transatlantic brethren have, for the last two or three years, indulged us with accounts of some most extraordinary meteoric appearance that have taken place in America about the middle of the month of November in each year, and generally on the same day. The phenomenon in question consists of a great quantity of that class of the meteors called shooting stars, which during the whole of the night above alluded to, keep up a constant discharge, and illuminate the whole hemisphere. The most remarkable circumstance, however, attending this affair is, that the phenomenon always occurs on or about the same day of the month (namely the 14th) and that the direction of the meteors is generally the same; which has induced many persons to imagine that it is connected with some extraneous body revolving round our globe. Mr. Bailey, in the course of his correspondence with Sir John Herschel, noticed these remarkable statements, and requested Sir John to record any extraordinary appearance of this kind that might occur, during his residence at the Cape of Good Hope.

The following is an extract of a letter which Mr. Bailey has just received from that distinguished philosopher: "In all my sweeps in Nov. I was on the look out for shooting stars, viz: on the 10th, 11th, 13, 14th, and 18th. On the 13th, and especially on the day mentioned in your letter, I told Sione (my assistant) to keep a sharp look out for them; his attention being disengaged whilst I was occupied at the telescope. He saw none. On the 14th, I still desired him to keep watch for them. The sweep commenced Oh. sidereal time, and we went on till 4h. 8m. without his or my noticing any. At 4h. 8m. 19s. sidereal time, he called out, 'there goes the largest I ever saw.' It fell in azimuth north about 12 west perpendicularly. At 4h. 42m. 59s. he cried out again for another great one; this fell north, about 2 points east, not quite vertically, but rather inclining eastward. This was a large, he said as Jupiter. At 4h. 46m. 39s. another great one falling east of Jupiter, and still more obliquely, elicited another call. At 4h. 53m. 59s. I absolutely started from the eye piece of the telescope at the glare of a superb one which fell about 20 deg. azimuth west of south, and obliquely. Sione thought that it lightened, though his back was to it, and it was hid from him by trees. It left a narrow, vivid, and distinctly crooked train, which lasted 20 seconds, and admitted of being

steadily contemplated. This meteor was equal to Venus, at her brightest here; and I ought to mention that Venus here casts a strong shadow, in which all the most minute parts of objects as the leaves of trees, &c. are perfectly well distinguished, not only against the white wall of a house, but on the ground. You may be sure that I shall look out again next 13th and 14th of November, should I still be here, though I can hardly suppose the thing to be more than an accidental coincidence; however, I have seen no considerable meteor since."

A DEATH'S HEAD.

We can vouch for the truth, in substance, of the following anecdote, as we had it from the lips of the gentleman concerned, who was then and is now an eminent physician, not given to the marvellous—not addicted even to the embellishments of facts.

It will be recollected that in the summer of 1823, the Yellow Fever appeared in Natchez and its vicinity in its most terrific malignity. The last stage of this disease is almost invariably attended with delirium, during which, we can speak from experience, the patient, sometimes at least, suffers all that we can conceive of the torments of the damned—not so much from the consciousness of bodily pain, but from the burning fever of the brain which conjures up scenes the most horrible.

It was a case like this, at the hospital, to which the medical aid of Dr. ——— was called in requisition. Before he arrived, however, the individual was dead. He had died, like many others during the panic usually attending this terrible destroyer, without the attendance even of a nurse. From the distorted appearance of the face, the mouth and eyes widely distended like those of a maniac, it was evident that the disease (only of six or seven hours duration,) had been of the most malignant type, and had terminated with a high stage of inflammation of the brain. The Doctor then young in practice, and who has since spared no exertion in collecting professional information, commenced at once an examination of the body. Before he had concluded the dissection, however, his services were required at the house of a planter near Natchez. Determined to examine the brain of the subject, the Dr. severed the head from the trunk, enveloped it in his handkerchief and took it with him. It was now dark, and as he approached the house of his patient, he was at a loss to determine what to do with the head. His eye at length was attracted by a hen-coop in the yard, and there he made life deposit. Not many minutes had elapsed, before another messenger arrived to beg his immediate aid in another direction. The doctor leaving the house with much haste, and being naturally a little abstracted, forgot the head.

The next morning, however, the Dr. on visiting the patient, was discovered by one of the servants, somewhat superstitiously peeping into the hen-coop aforesaid. This led of course to an inquiry for the "bundle," which the Dr. stated he had deposited there the night before, and that it had been removed. The negro, smiling significantly at the idea that the Dr. had made free with his master's hen-coop, replied that he knew nothing of the bundle, but added that two turkeys had been stolen the night before and so it turned out. The same day the "bundle," and the turkeys were found side by side in the corner of a fence about a quarter of a mile from the house. In consequence of rain a few hours before the robbery of the coop, the ground was soft, and the negro concerned in the theft was easily tracked to a neighboring plantation. Enquiry being immediately made in relation to the circumstances the negro, not yet having recovered from his fright, came forward and confessed himself the thief. It appears, that in taking the turkeys, he added the "bundle," in question to the plunder, but had not proceeded far before his curiosity induced him to ascertain its contents. Tying the legs of the turkeys together he laid them upon the ground, and seating himself he commenced the examination. He threw open the folds of the handkerchief—the head stood erect upon the stump of the neck—and the moon just then breaking from the clouds, revealed to the almost petrified negro the ghastly countenance as if still struggling in the last agonies of death. The negro, in describing his terrors, said, all he could recollect of the moment was, that he thought the devil had thrust his head up through the earth—that he distinctly saw fire and smelt brimstone.—And he thinks so to this day

if he be still living. One good effect at least attended the circumstances above described. The story of the "head" having received many extravagant additions from the fruitful imagination of the negroes, naturally superstitious, became current in the neighborhood, & mystery of its appearance never having been explained to them; the "hen coop has never since been molested."

THE SILVER SIXPENCE.

"Do you see here," said a ragged little boy to a group of gaily dressed urchins, as he came up from market street wharf, in Philadelphia, "do you see here, I've got a silver sixpence." They all set up a hearty laugh.—"Why," said Jeremiah Budd, whose father was a wealthy ship master, "I have six dollars to spend on Christmas, and that fellow is proud of a sixpence."

Theodore heard it, and looking thoughtfully upon the ground for a moment; then recollecting himself, "six dollars to spend," muttered he, "but sixpence to keep is better than that."

Theodore kept his sixpence in his pocket, carefully wrapped up, for several weeks, when one day, his uncle, who keeps a fruit shop at the corner of the alley where he lived said to him, "Theodore, your sixpence don't grow in your pocket, you should plant it." The little boy understood him better, when he told him he might buy some fruit, in the market with it, and stand in his shop and sell it out again. He embraced the offer; doubled his money the first day, and went on until he had as much fruit to sell as he had room for in his little corner.

His uncle observing the thrifty, and withal honest turn of the boy, finally took him into his store as an assistant; and allowed him to trade sundry specified articles on his own account. The closest attention to business; the most careful management of his small funds, and that run of good luck, as it is called, which generally runs with those who are saving, industrious, and prudent; in the course of three or four years, enabled him to go into full partnership with his uncle, and to extend his business, and double his former amount.

Having trimmed his sails right at first, it became a kind of second nature with Theodore to keep what Sailors call close to the wind; and he made head way astonishingly now. Soon after he was 21, he was able to buy out the whole stock of a dry goods merchant, and to go into business on his own account entirely. Still he prospered, and became an importer, changed, finally, his business for a wholesale concern; embarked in the India trade; and at last married a fine girl, whose fortune was little inferior to his own; and it was said after that occurrence he was worth not less than half a million.

Theodore now lived in an elegant mansion in Arch street, kept his carriage, and had every thing in pretty style; and yet attended as usual to his business. That he might never lose sight of his good fortune, the silver sixpence was blended with the arms on the carriage; it formed the seal with which he stamped his letters, and he had one of the coins—he used to say the very identical one he first owned—fastened upon his desk in his counting room. Remembering thus constantly that by small means he has risen, he still, amid much well bestowed charity; and in the constant practice of true benevolence, looked well to small things, and never forgot how to reckon pence as well as pounds.

Thus smoothly were Theodore's affairs going forward, when one sultry summer's day, just as he entered his counting room, a thin, squalid figure presented himself at the counter, and asked for employment. He wore a thread-bare suit of black, an old hat, and his shoes were almost ready to drop from his feet. "In what capacity?" asked Theodore; "do you wish for employment?"

"In any capacity," was the reply; "but, sir," continued the stranger, wiping a tear from the eye with his coat sleeve, "my father was a merchant, and he brought me up to his profession; I should, therefore, be glad for employment as a clerk."

Theodore looked at him closely. He thought he saw some lineament he remembered.

"What's your name?" he asked. The stranger hesitated a moment, hung down his head, and replied in a low voice—"Jeremiah Budd."

"Ah," said Theodore, recollecting him instantly, "and you have got clear of your six dollars, long ago, I fancy, Jeremiah."

"Yes," said Jeremiah, with a sigh,

"but I have not forgotten the ragged little boy, with the silver sixpence. Had I been half as careful of my thousands as he was of his pence, I should not have been here friendless and penniless this day."

There was a half triumphant smile on Theodore's face as he took the hand of his visitor, which seemed to spring from self complacent feeling, which was excusable, because it rose partly from the consciousness of his ability to aid one whose imprudence had caused his misfortune, but whose seemed now to confess his error. He took the applicant into his employ, and in process of time restored him to the business doing, active, prudent, and valuable man.

The lesson taught in this story is too plain to need a word of addition. I will simply ask—where is the needy man who has not spent more money foolishly in his life than would be necessary to make him comfortable now.

From the Genesee Farmer. DRAG-LOG OR ROLLER.

In the February number of the Farmers Register, the following method of constructing this useful instrument is given by James M. Garnett, Esquire, President of the Fredericksburg Agricultural Society:

"Take a straight log, of any kind of wood most convenient, 6 or 7 feet long, and about 18 or 20 inches in diameter, (22 or 24 would probably be still better,) at both ends, then split and hollow out one of the halves, until you get it sufficiently light. After this fix two strong bars across the log, and mortice them into another piece of the same size, parallel to the log and nearly of the same length, to which the horses, mules, and oxen are attached, as to the cross bar of a roller. The superiority of this very simple and cheap contrivance, (for the merest collier can make it) over any implement yet used for pulverizing ploughed land, none can easily conceive who have not seen it tried. It is certainly true that the same team will draw a roller of the same weight with more ease, but the latter does the work so much more effectually, as greatly to overbalance the difference."

The greater the diameter of the log, the more easily it is drawn, provided the weight remains the same; because it will then pass readily over without scraping up the earth before it. We would recommend therefore, that it be made of the lightest wood; that considerable more than one half of the upper part of the log be split off, and that it then be hollowed out in the form of a trough until of sufficient lightness. In this way any desired size may be adopted.

It is to be observed that this is only intended to supply the place of the common roller, when pulverization is the object, hence it is peculiarly adapted to reducing cloddy ground. It is an excellent smooth er or preparer of ground for grass seed, which is to be put in fine and light harrow. It is also of great utility when applied to the top of newly turned green sward pressing down the sod and grinding the surface of the soil to powder. It is scarcely necessary to say that when used, the soil should never be wet. This useful implement has been already noticed by one of our correspondents, (vol 5 p. 92,) but we have considered it of such value to all who cultivate heavy soils; as to deserve again to be recommended to their attention.

STEAM ENGINES.

Another valuable invention.—The publication of the statement in the letter of our Washington correspondent, that our countryman Perkins had invented a steam boiler which cannot explode, has made us acquainted with the fact of the invention in Massachusetts; last year, of a somewhat similar boiler, which, it is supposed, will supersede all others now in use in the United States. A friend in New York, on reading the letter of our correspondent, has called our attention to the invention now spoken of, and says that it is every where received at the east with great approbation. Like Perkins', it cannot explode, but its other advantages are; that it does not take up half the room ordinarily required, and that it is adapted for any kind of fuel. Forty or fifty have been in use during the last year, in both hard and soft water, and have proved that a saving in fuel of forty per cent. may be effected. Gentlemen of the highest scientific attainments at the east have given it their unqualified approval, and its use for the state of New York, has recently been sold for a magnificent sum. The name of the inventor is John Goulding, of Boston.

These statements are made on the authority of our friend in New York, who further says that the proprietor will visit the western country shortly; and we will only add, that if they be accurate, we ardently hope he will make his visit as speedily as possible,

that his invention may be introduced. We presume one hundred engines are now under contract at Cincinnati, Wheeling and Pittsburgh, to be finished the present year. Could they be constructed on a principle which would forbid their ever exploding, an immense amount of human life would doubtless be saved. The invention will also probably be found highly useful in our shallow waters during the summer and fall seasons.

Wheeling Gazette.

A MATCH BROKEN.

A few months ago a middle aged widower, whose legs are longer than his head—and who has sung songs in Washington, fell in love with a pretty young girl, young enough to be his grand daughter but old enough in mind to be his mother.

She was rather surprised at the old fellow's paying his addresses to her, but being fond of a joke she encouraged them to some extent.

The bachelor brought her a variety of presents—some expensive—some otherwise—but all of them indicating little or no taste. Among others; one evening he brought Maria a very pretty musical box. She was a sensible and intellectual girl, and upon the music box being presented to her, she could not help showing a sarcastic leer at the ends of her black eye, and round the edges of her lovely little mouth.—Maria set it going on the table. It played merrily its sets of tunes.

"Mr Smith," said Maria, "it sounds low it is not loud enough." "Not loud enough—my love—put it on something hollow, and the notes will sound much louder."

"Do you think so?" said Maria. "Certainly love!" said Mr Widower Smith.

Maria, with an arch look, that spoke volumes, took up the box—re-set the tune—and placed it plump on the forehead of her devoted admirer. The family circle around—father, mother, Ellen, Jane, Matilda, Rosa, Tom, Peter, Harriet, Charles, and Anna, all burst into a laugh at this tally of Maria's. Mr. Widower Smith found out what was meant by "something hollow." He took up his hat; bid "good evening," and that was the last Maria saw of her lover.

"The old fussy fellow! I am glad he's gone!" said Maria, tossing her head directly N. E.—N. E. Herald.

An affair of Honor, or a sovereign cure for the Dropsy.—An intelligent traveller informs us, says the Alabama Republican; that some time since, a Dr. Blanchard, of Alexandria, on Red River, challenged a Mr. Murray, an Attorney, on some trivial account, who, at the time, was labouring under an abdominal dropsy. They met in the province of Texas, and Murray was shot through the stomach. The dropsical matter was discharged, and the bowels, from the inflammation excited by the wound, adhering to the peritoneum, a permanent cure was accomplished. The parties became friends, and the Attorney, remained grateful to the Doctor for his gratuitous surgical operation. We know no law against shedding blood, though there is one against shedding blood. If our medical colleges approve of this mode, it is to be hoped the candidates for M. D. will be carefully examined as to their skill in this novel mode of operation.

We believe it is a fact generally known to medical men; that the intestinal excitement of such a degree of inflammation upon the peritoneum as should be sufficient to produce adhesion between its surface, has, in one or two instances, succeeded in curing abdominal dropsy.

Receipt at a Western Land Office.—Three hundred thousand dollars were received during the first fifteen days after the re-opening of the land office at Kalamazoo, on the 18th ult., for public lands. The place, it is stated, was literally thronged with purchasers. On some of the fifteen days forty thousand dollars a day were received.—Albany Eve. Journal.

At Chambersburgh, Pa. lately, a rope was stretched from the 3d story window of the Franklin hotel, to a Poplar tree on the opposite side of the square, a distance of 160 feet, and a daughter of Mr. Sciarra, the Italian equitarius, aged 9 years mounted the rope and walked the whole length in safety. A piece of from 90 to 100 dollars was made up for her.

The Legislature of New York, on the eleventh, passed bills incorporating Twenty-four Rail Road Companies.